

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 8-44 are pending in this application, claims 4-6 and 12-44 being withdrawn from consideration. By this Amendment, claims 1, 8, 10 and 11 and paragraphs [0174] and [0175] of the instant specification are amended, and claim 7 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 1, 8 and 10 are amended to recite the features of original claim 7. Claims 10 and 11 are amended as suggested in the Office Action. Support for the amendment to the specification can be found, for example, at step S605 of Fig. 7 and line 8 of paragraph [0199]. Thus, no new matter is added.

I. The Specification Satisfies All Formal Requirements

Paragraphs [0174] and [0175] are objected to because of terminology. By this Amendment, paragraphs [0174] and [0175] are amended as requested. Withdrawal of the objection is thus respectfully requested.

II. Claim 10 Satisfies the Requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

By this Amendment, claim 10 is amended according to the suggestion provided by the Office Action. Also, claim 11 is similarly amended. Thus, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 10 satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 101. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully traversed.

III. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter**A. §102(e) Rejection of Claims 1, 7, 8 and 10 Over Fujii**

Claims 1, 7, 8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0114015 to Fujii et al. ("Fujii"). The rejection of canceled claim 7 is moot, and the rejection of claims 1, 8 and 10 is respectfully traversed.

Fujii does not teach or suggest every feature of independent claims 1, 8 and 10. Fujii does not disclose the predetermined condition being "(CONDITION 2) the group of boundary pixels is a group of pixels in which the difference in the pixel values between adjacent pixels is equal to or larger than the predetermined threshold value A and the difference in the changes in the pixel values between the adjacent pixels is smaller than a predetermined threshold value B, and which are continuously arranged in the predetermined direction from the first group of pixels," as recited in amended independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claims 8 and 10 (emphasis added).

The Office Action asserts that Th1 in Fujii corresponds to threshold value A and Th2 in Fujii corresponds to threshold value B. These assertions are respectfully traversed.

Fujii is directed to finding the edges of images. Fujii merely discloses that the brightness difference between adjacent pixels is used to determine whether an edge exists (see Fujii, paragraph [0095]). Fujii discloses that the threshold value Th1 is used to detect an edge start end, and the threshold value Th2 is used to detect an edge termination (see Fujii, paragraph [0096]). However, the threshold value A and threshold value B recited in the independent claims are used to determine whether a pixel belongs to "the group of boundary pixels." Therefore, contrary to the Office Action's assertions, Th1 and Th2 disclosed in Fujii do not correspond to threshold value A and threshold value B, as recited in amended claims 1, 8 and 10.

Thus, for at least these reasons, independent claims 1, 8 and 10 are patentable over Fujii. Withdrawal of the rejections is thus respectfully requested.

B. §102(e) Rejection of Claims 2, 3, 9 and 11 over Gossett

Claims 2, 3, 9 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. to Gossett et al. ("Gossett"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Gossett does not teach or suggest every feature of claims 2, 3, 9 and 11. Gossett does not disclose "a division line being determined in the boundary region based on the values of the pixels that constitute the boundary region," as recited in claim 2 (emphasis added). Gossett also does not disclose "a boundary region detecting device to detect . . . a group of boundary pixels," as recited in amended independent claim 9. Further, Gossett does not disclose "instructions to detect a boundary region," as recited in amended independent claim 11.

The Office Action asserts that Gossett discloses the "division line" and the "boundary region" recited in independent claim 2 in Figs. 8A-8C, respectively. These assertions are respectfully traversed.

In Gossett, a digital frame is divided into a grid, then a process is applied to adjust the boundaries of the grid (see Gossett, column 5, lines 13-23). Contrary to the Office Action's assertions, Figs. 8A and 8B of Gossett merely show two subsections. The pixels are divided into either one of the subsections based on their value (see Gossett, column 6, lines 30-40). Accordingly, Gossett merely discloses that a pixel of one subsection is assigned to adjacent subsection based on the value similar to that of the adjacent subsection (see Gossett, column 6, lines 1-42). Gossett does not disclose a boundary region or boundary pixels. Thus, Gossett does not disclose a boundary region or boundary pixels as recited in independent claims 2, 9 and 11.

Thus, for at least these reasons, independent claims 2, 9 and 11 are patentable over Gossett. Further, claim 3 depends on claim 2. Thus, claim 3 is patentable over Gossett for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 2, as well as for additional features it recites. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: November 20, 2007

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